

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 2, 2003. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Applicant notes that these changes do not narrow the scope of any of those claims. Claim 1 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, asserting that the terms “minute” and “close” are relative terms that render the claims unclear. Without agreeing to the propriety of these rejections, Applicant has deleted these recitations from the claims. Applicant believes that these Section 112, second paragraph, rejections have been obviated, and respectfully request their withdrawal.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claim 4 includes allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form and so as to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Claim 4 has not been so rewritten at this time because, for the reasons given below, its base claim is believed to be allowable.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,871,657 (Nelson), and rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0006581 A1 (Motoi et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, is patentably distinct from the cited prior art at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a forming method for forming an ink jet print head substrate in which an ink flow path forming member is attached to a substrate for forming an ink discharge pressure generating element and in which a pit is formed in an attachment region of the substrate for attaching the liquid flow path forming member.

Among the notable features of Claim 1 is the presence of the pit in an attachment region of the substrate for attaching the liquid flow path forming member. With this feature, the adhesivity between the head substrate and the ink flow path forming member is improved. If, for example, an elongated ink flow path is provided, the ink flow path forming member can be prevented from floating and peeling.

Nelson, as understood by Applicant, relates to an ink-jet printhead with improved adhesive bonding between channel and heater substrates. In Nelson, Figure 3 shows pits 42 that are formed on a thick-film and polymeric layer 6 to joint the channel substrate 2 and the substrate 4 with an adhesive. Pits 42 prevent the adhesive from flowing into the electrode portion 26. Applicant respectfully asserts that nothing has been found, or pointed out, that would teach or suggest forming an ink jet print head substrate having the features recited in Claim 1, where the substrate and ink flow path forming member attach in a region having a pit.

Even if Motoi et al. is deemed to show all that it is cited for, that would not supply what is missing from Nelson as a reference against Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over this prior art, taken separately or in any proper combination.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from Claim 1, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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